

Ref

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 411

Emendation of the spelling of the specific names of the
Short-toed Lark and the Egyptian Vulture



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 411

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Vice-President : Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (*Sao Paulo, Brazil*) (12th August 1953)

Secretary : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*) (27th July 1948)

B. The Members of the Commission

(*Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology*)

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Dr. L. B. HOLTHUIS (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) (12th August 1953)

OPINION 411

EMENDATION OF THE SPELLING OF THE SPECIFIC NAMES OF THE SHORT-TOED LARK AND THE EGYPTIAN VULTURE

RULING.—(1) It is hereby directed that the spelling of the under-mentioned specific names be emended as follows :—

- (a) The specific name *brachydactila* Leisler, 1814, as published in the combination *Alauda brachydactila*, to be emended to *brachydactyla* ;
- (b) The specific name *perenopterus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Vultur perenopterus*, to be emended to *percnopterus*.

(2) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 721 and 722 respectively :—

- (a) *brachydactyla* (emend. of *brachydactila*) Leisler, 1814, as published in the combination *Alauda brachydactila* ;
- (b) *percnopterus* (emend. of *perenopterus*) Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Vultur perenopterus*.

(3) The specific names specified in (1)(a) and (1)(b) above and there rejected as Invalid Original Spellings are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and*

Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Nos. 289 and 290 respectively.

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 19th October 1950 Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithological Congress, submitted to the Commission on behalf of the Standing Committee the following application for the emendation of the specific names of the Short-toed Lark, the Egyptian Vulture and the Green Sandpiper :—

Proposed emendation, under Article 19, of the trivial names of three species of bird which, when first published, were incorrectly spelt

Application submitted by the
Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the
International Ornithological Congress

Covering letter dated 19th October 1950, with enclosure,
from Colonel R. Meinertzhagen, Chairman of the Standing
Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the Inter-
national Ornithological Congress

As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature I beg to forward to you the following recommendation relating to the acceptance of emendations of the trivial names of three bird species for favour of decision by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

Each of the trivial names concerned is the oldest available for the species concerned, and it is accordingly recommended that these three names, when emended, should be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

ENCLOSURE

**Proposed correction of faulty orthography in the case of
the trivial names of three species of bird**

- Alauda brachydactyla* Leisler, 1814, *Annalen der Wetterauischen Gesellschaft für die Gesammte Naturkunde* 3(2) : 357
Vultur perenopterus Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 87
Tringa ocropus Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 149

These names, as originally spelled, are faulty Latin, they offend the cultured mind and are meaningless.

Under Article 19, these names should be regarded as cases of "fautes d'orthographe" or "fautes d'impression" and should be emended to read:—

Alauda brachydactyla Leisler. βραχύς short. δακτυλος toe.
Vultur percnopterus Linnaeus. περκνος dusky. πτερου wing.
Tringa ochropus Linnaeus.¹ ὀχρός pale yellow. πους foot.

R. MEINERTZHAGEN : *Chairman of the Standing Committee.*

J. BERLIOZ : *Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.*

E. STRESEMANN : *Zoologisches Museum der Universität, Berlin.*

JOHN T. ZIMMER : *The American Museum of Natural History, New York.*

2. Partial overlap between the present application and Application Z.N.(S.) 274 submitted by the Secretary to the Commission in response to a request addressed to him at the Session of the Commission held in Paris in 1948 : It should be noted that in one respect the present application by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature overlaps with a proposal numbered Z.N.(S.) 274 for the completion of the Ruling given in *Opinion 16* submitted by the Secretary to the Commission in response to a request addressed to him at the Session of the Commission held in Paris in 1948 (Hemming, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 9 : 70—75). The overlap involved arises in connection with the proposed emendation to *ochropus* of the specific name *ocrophus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Tringa ocrophus*. This suggested emendation arose incidentally in Mr. Hemming's Report Z.N.(S.) 274 in connection with the proposed addition of the generic name *Tringa* Linnaeus, 1758, to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, while it formed the third of the principal proposals submitted by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature in its Application Z.N.(S.) 491. Attention was drawn to this overlap by Mr. Hemming in a note

¹ At the time of the publication of this application a footnote was inserted at this point drawing attention to the partial overlap discussed in paragraph 2 of the present *Opinion* between the present application and an application published in the same Part of the *Bulletin* which was concerned with certain names discussed in *Opinion 16*, of which one was the name *ocrophus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Tringa ocrophus*.

(*loc. cit.* : 75) annexed to Appendix 2 of his report Z.N.(S.) 274, in order that the applications concerned might be co-ordinated at the time when the Commission came to vote upon them. Particulars of the action ultimately taken to deal with this matter are given in paragraph 13 of the present *Opinion*.

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

3. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of the application of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature the question of the emendation of the three specific names dealt with therein was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 491.

4. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 30th January 1952 and was published on 15th October of that year in Triple-Part 1/3 of volume 9 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Meinertzhagen (for the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature), 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 9 : 52).

5. Issue of Public Notices : In view of the fact that the applications published in Triple-Part 1/3 of volume 9 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* constituted the first move to promote stability in ornithological nomenclature taken by the Commission for many years it was decided to take exceptional measures for bringing these applications before ornithologists in all parts of the world. First, Public Notice was given for applications not involving the use of the Plenary Powers equally with those applications which did involve the use of those Powers. Second, this Public Notice was not only given in the normal prescribed manner, but in addition was given to fourteen serial publications or institutions specially concerned with ornithology. The names of the serials and institutions in question have been given in the *Opinion* (*Opinion* 401)² relating to the generic name *Colymbus*

² *Opinion* 401 has been published as Part 1 of the present volume.

Linnaeus, the *Opinion* in which the Commission dealt with the first of the series of applications submitted by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature.

6. Comments of a general character : The issue of the Public Notices specified above elicited thirty-seven comments of a general character relating to the cases of ornithological nomenclature published in Triple-Part 1/3 of volume 9 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. These comments came from ornithological institutions, groups of ornithologists and individual specialists. Of these comments, the authors of thirty-six gave general support to the applications published in the foregoing Triple-Part. The single remaining comment was from a specialist who was opposed to any use of the Commission's Plenary Powers. The communications so received have been reproduced in the Appendix annexed to *Opinion* 401³ (*Colymbus*), those supporting the applications referred to above being given in Part 1, the single comment in opposition to the above applications being given in Part 2.

7. Particular support for the present application received from M. Noël Mayaud (Faculté des Sciences de Paris) : On 17th March 1953, M. Noël Mayaud (*Faculté des Sciences de Paris*) addressed a letter to the Commission commenting upon a number of the applications relating to ornithological nomenclature published in Triple-Part 1/3 of volume 9 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. As regards the present application M. Mayaud intimated his support in the following terms :—

Il paraît logique de rectifier de cette façon l'orthographe de ces noms : *brachydactyla* Leisler, 1814, *Alauda* ; *percnopterus* Linné, 1758, *Vultur* ; *ochropus* (nec *ocrophus*) Linné, 1758, *Tringa*.

8. Procedural problems considered at the time of the formulation of the proposals to be submitted to the Commission for vote : Two problems of a procedural character called for consideration at the time when the stage was reached for Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, to prepare a Voting Paper for submission to the Commission. The first of these arose from the fact that subsequent to the publication of the present application in the *Bulletin*

³ See Footnote 2 above.

of *Zoological Nomenclature* the provision in the *Règles* relating to the emendation of names had been completely revised by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, in a manner which, contrary to the position obtaining at the time of the submission of the present application, would have called for the use of the Plenary Powers if the names dealt with in the present application were to be emended in the way proposed. On this point it was decided to draw the attention of the Commission to the fact that the Copenhagen Congress, when revising the provisions relating to the emendation of names, had introduced a provision safeguarding the position of cases dealt with by the Commission prior to the promulgation of the revised text of the *Règles*. Second, it was necessary to consider the situation created by the overlap discussed in paragraph 2 above in relation to the name *ocrophus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Tringa ocrophus*, between (i) the application submitted by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (i.e. the application dealt with in the present *Opinion*) and (ii) the application submitted by the Secretary in connection with the completion of the Ruling given in *Opinion* 16. On this subject it was decided that the Commission should be invited to vote on each of these applications in the form in which it was originally submitted in the knowledge that, as had been previously pointed out, the overlap referred to above existed and would need to be resolved at the time when the *Opinion* embodying the Commission's decision on the first of the above applications and the *Direction* embodying its decision on the second of these applications came to be prepared.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

9. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(54)68 : On 14th May 1954 a Voting Paper (V.P.(54)68) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the emendation of three specific names of birds, as recommended by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature in the note set out on page 52 of vol. 9

of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, the spelling there proposed to be rejected to be placed on the *Official Index* at the same time that the proposed emendations are placed on the *Official List*" [i.e. in the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

10. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 14th August 1954.

11. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)68 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)68 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following nineteen (19) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Boschma ; Holthuis ; Lemche ; Dymond ; Hering ; Vokes ; Esaki ; Riley ; Bonnet ; Bradley (J.S.) ; Hemming ; do Amaral ; Jaczewski ; Pearson ; Hankó ; Mertens ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Cabrera ; Stoll ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None ;

12. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 17th August 1954, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(54)68, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 11 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

13. Action taken to resolve the overlap between the application dealt with in the present "Opinion" and Application Z.N.(S.) 274 relating to the proposed completion of the Ruling given in "Opinion" 16 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period in respect of the cases of ornithological nomenclature dealt with in Triple-Part 1/3 of volume 9 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* it was found that the Commission had unanimously approved the emendation to *ochropus* of the name *ocrophus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Tringa ocrophus*, (a) by its vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)68 on the application submitted by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (i.e. the application dealt with in the present *Opinion*) and by its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)73 on the application submitted by the Secretary for the completion of the Ruling given in *Opinion* 16. In these circumstances the Secretary on 17th August 1954 executed a Minute directing that the decision of the Commission in the matter of the foregoing name be embodied in whichever of the *Opinions* promulgating the decisions taken on Voting Paper V.P.(54)68 and V.P.(54)73 respectively was the first to be prepared. In the year 1954 a new Series styled *Directions* was instituted for the promulgation in the first instance of decisions taken by the Commission for the purpose of completing Rulings given by the Commission in the period up to the end of 1936 in cases where such action was needed. By the month of April 1955 a stage had been reached when the next *Direction* to be prepared (*Direction* 17) was that in relation to the completion of the Ruling given in *Opinion* 16 on which the Commission had voted on Voting Paper V.P.(54)73. In accordance with the direction given in the Secretary's Minute of 17th August 1954, the decision in regard to the specific name *ocrophus* Linnaeus, 1758, taken both on the foregoing Voting Paper and also on Voting Paper V.P.(54)68 was accordingly embodied in *Direction* 17⁴.

14. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion" : On 15th October 1955, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those

⁴ *Direction* 17, which was rendered on 9th April 1955, was published on 14th July 1955 (*Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 1(C.) : 89—112).

of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)68, subject to the omission therefrom of the portion of the subject-matter of that decision which, as explained in paragraph 13 above, had formed the subject of a Vote by the Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)73, taken simultaneously with its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)68, and which had already been embodied in the Ruling given in *Direction 17*, the *Direction* embodying the decision taken on Voting Paper V.P.(54)73.

15. Original References : The following are the original references for the names which by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* were placed in an emended form on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*, the Invalid Original Spellings, cited below, being at the same time placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—

brachydactila [sic], *Alauda*, Leisler, 1814, *Ann. Wetterau. Ges. Gesamte Naturk.* 3(2) : 357

perenopterus [sic], *Vultur*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 87

16. At the time of the submission of the present application the name applicable to the second portion of a binomen was “trivial name”. This was altered to “specific name” by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, which at the same time made corresponding changes in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of names of this category. These changes in terminology have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

17. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

18. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Four Hundred and Eleven (411) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Fifteenth day of October, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Five.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING